REMARKS

The office action of September 14, 2005 (the Office Action) has been reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Claims 12-15, 18-30, 33-36, 39, 40 and 43-49 are pending in this application. By this amendment, claims 12-14, 20, 23, 25-28 and 39 have been amended. Support the amendments can be found in the specification as originally filed. Note that claims 23 and 26 have been rewritten in independent form, but have not been substantively amended.

Claims 12-15, 18-22, 24, 25, 27-30 and 33-36

Claims 12-15, 18-22, 24, 25, 27-30 and 33-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. patent no. 6,122,635 to Burakoff et al. (Burakoff) in view of U.S. patent no. 6,236,980 to Reese (Reese) or over Burakoff in view of Reese and further in view of U.S. patent no. 5,940,843 to Zucknovich et al. (Zucknovich). Reconsideration and allowance of these claims are respectfully requested.

Independent claims 12 and 25, as amended, each recite the subject matter of a computerized method for the archival or retrieval of symbolically linked information that includes normalizing an input symbol to generate a normalized symbol formatted according to a predetermined structure in which the step of normalizing includes applying one of a set of character rules and a set of process rules to the input symbol to generate the normalized symbol.

The Office Action correctly notes, "Burakoff did not teach, normalizing the input symbol formatted according to a predetermined structure." Office Action, page 2. The Office Action asserts that Reese teaches this subject matter. In contrast, Reese merely discloses a Microsoft Access select query for the *exact* security selected by the user, which is not normalized or otherwise formatted. In particular, Reese teaches that "the user selects a security by use of a security selection means (FIG. 14, box 338). The computer apparatus then processes the request utilizing the programmed algorithms." Emphasis added. Reese, col. 14, lines 8-11. As pointed out in the Office Action, Reese discloses the use of "a Microsoft Access select query to construct this first subset [of information for the security]. Through the utilization of criteria based upon the selection of the user the select query is able to retrieve just the recommendations for the

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security chosen." Emphasis added. *Id.* at lines 23-26. There is no teaching or suggestion at all in Reese to perform the step of normalizing as recited in independent claims 12 and 25.

In addition, there is no teaching or suggestion in Burakoff or Reese to perform the step of normalizing that includes applying one of a set of character rules and a set of process rules to the input symbol to generate the normalized symbol as recited in independent claims 12 and 25. As admitted in the Office Action, Burakoff fails to teach or suggest the recited subject matter of normalizing the input symbol and, as discussed above, Reese fails to teach or suggest the step of normalizing at all, much less to include the subject matter of applying character rules or process rules. Zucknovich fails to overcome these deficiencies of Burakoff and Reese, nor was it relied upon in the Office Action to do so.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 12 and 25 are allowable over Burakoff in view of Reese. In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 13-15, 18-22, 24, 27-30 and 33-36, which depend therefrom, are allowable over Burakoff in view of Reese or Burakoff in view of Reese and further in view of Zucknovich along with their respective base claim and further in view of novel features recited therein.

Claims 23 and 26

Independent claims 23 and 26, as amended, have been rewritten in independent form to include the subject matter of their base claims. Otherwise, these claims have not been substantively amended.

Claim 23 stands rejected as allegedly being unpatentable over Burakoff in view of Reese and further in view of Zucknovich, and claim 26 stands rejected as allegedly being unpatentable over Burakoff in view of Reese. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

As noted above for their former base claims, claims 12 and 25, the cited prior art fails to teach the claimed subject matter of normalizing the input symbol to generate a normalized symbol formatted according to a predetermined structure. In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited prior art fails to teach the subject matter of claim 23 of, if the normalized symbol contains an unresolved segment, searching a contributor database to find a predominant

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use segment and assigning the predominant use segment to the unresolved segment, or the subject matter of claim 26 of determining whether the input symbol includes an unresolved segment and if the input symbol contains an unresolved segment, searching a client database to find a client preference segment, and assigning the client preference segment to the unresolved segment.

The Office Action asserts that Reese teaches this subject matter. The Office Action generally points to the Microsoft Access query teachings of Reese based directly on a symbol selected by the user. As discussed above, these teachings of Reese fail to teach or suggest the recited subject matter of normalizing an input symbol, much less the recited subject matter of claim 23 of, if the normalized symbol contains an unresolved segment, searching a contributor database to find a predominant use segment and assigning the predominant use segment to the unresolved segment, or the subject matter of claim 26 of determining whether the input symbol includes an unresolved segment and if the input symbol contains an unresolved segment, searching a client database to find a client preference segment, and assigning the client preference segment to the unresolved segment. Reese simply teaches performing searches based on the symbol selected by the user.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 23 and 26 are allowable over the cited prior art.

Claims 43-49

Independent claims 43-49 stand rejected as allegedly being unpatentable over Burakoff in view of Reese. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

As discussed above, Burakoff and Reese fail to teach the subject matter of normalizing the input symbol to generate a normalized symbol. Moreover, these references fail to teach or suggest the subject matter of normalizing the input symbol based on a historical pattern of a contributor of the information element (claim 43), based on a preference of a contributor of the information element (claim 44), based on a historical pattern of a submitter of the input symbol (claim 45), based on an identification of a contributor of the information element (claim 46),

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based on an identification of a submitter of the input symbol (claim 47), or based on a preference of a submitter of the input symbol (claim 48).

The Office Action asserts that Reese teaches this subject matter. In support of this assertion, the Office Action points to the Microsoft Access query subject matter discussed above performed using the symbol selected by the user, which fails to teach or suggest this subject matter, or it refers to Reese, col. 16, lines 20-34, which teaches the final step of providing invention report information rather than the subject matter of normalizing an input symbol. Clearly, Reese fails to teach or suggest the claimed subject matter of normalizing as recited in these claims.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 43-49 are allowable over Burakoff in view of Reese.

Claims 39 and 40

Claims 39 and 40 stand rejected over U.S. patent no. 6,055,538 to Kessenich et al. (Kessenich) in view of U.S. patent no. 5,819,271 to Mahoney et al. (Mahoney). Reconsideration and allowance of these claims are respectfully requested.

Independent claim 39 has been amended to clarify that the claimed processor performs the recited steps of receiving an input symbol, normalizing the input symbol, searching the symbol database, and retrieving documents. The Office Action fails to address these recited steps of claim 39 performed by the processor. Applicants respectfully submit that the Office Action fails to make a *prima facia* case of obviousness with respect to independent claim 39 by failing to even address this claimed subject matter. However, neither Kessenich nor Mahoney teaches these steps nor were they relied upon to do so.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 39 and claim 40 depending therefrom are allowable over Kessenich in view of Mahoney.
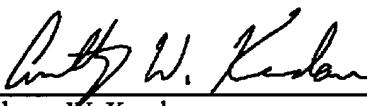
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Conclusion

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully urged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below-listed number.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: March 14, 2006   By: _____
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